Plan 1990-91 for the development of inland waterways in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are given below:—

(i) Improvement of canal system between Kakinada and Madras Ports—Rs. 0.20 crore;

(ii) Improvement of North Buckingham Canal between Ennore and Chintamani Lock in Tamil Nadu—Rs. 0.65 crore.

It is presumed that the Honourable Member means by "captive port" is a port for the exclusive use of a single user. There is no proposal for any such port in Andhra Pradesh.

The Annual Plan 1990-91 includes a provision of Rs. 5.00 crores for works connected with the construction of a port at Ennore in Tamil Nadu near Madras which is Primarily intended for unloading thermal coal.

(b) The envisaged benefits from the ongoing improvement works on the North Buckingham Canal stretch in Tamil Nadu are:—

(i) Widening the bed width to 10 meters in closed reaches and 15 meters in open reaches and deepening the canal to a minimum depth of 1.8 meters so as to facilitate operation of mechanised vessels.

(ii) Movement of additional traffic of 3.90 lakh tonnes of cargo over and above the existing traffic of 0.60 lakh tonnes per year; and

(iii) Saving of Rs. 0.40 per tonne km. for cargo moved by IWT compared to movement by road.

(c) A Techno-Economic feasibility study and hydrographic survey on the river Krishna has been undertaken by Inland Waterways Authority of India with a view to assess the viability of development of the river as a National Waterway.

(d) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system between Allahabad and Haldia (1620 kms.) and river Brahmaputra between Thubri and Sadiya (891 kms.) have so far been declared as National Waterways.

Terrorists in Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan

1778. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 9th July, 1990 to the effect that the terrorists are strengthening their base in Sri Ganganagar District in Rajasthan and that unconstitutional Khalsa courts are being run in the rural areas of the District; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

"Casual Workers" in the Delhi Kendra of Doordarshan

1779. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Kendra of Doordarshan has over 400 young and qualified persons working as casual production assistants, Graphic artists, Video editors Makeup assistants and General/Light/Floor assistants for the period varying from one year to 12 years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the nature of the job of these persons being considered as "Casual Workers" is the same as that of the incumbents of regular posts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many of them who have been working with the Doordarshan for years together have crossed their age to get a Government job elsewhere, particularly in view of the fact that the Doordarshan has reduced the recruitment age from 35 years to 25 years; and

(d) whether Government have in view of its assurance for creating more employment any plans to regularise the services of young casual workers with the Doordarshan who have acquired adequate experience over the years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) A number of persons have been engaged on casual basis to meet urgent programme requirements. Such appointments have been made on the basis of contracts entered into with these employees with their consent. It is made clear in the contract that the casual engagement will not confer any right to them for regular appointment.

(d) Department of Personnel & Training have recently issued instructions for regularisation of casual workers against Group C posts, as a one tme measure, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The casual employees of Doordarshan will also be considered for regularisation subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down by that Department.

Pak's Representation of Amnesty International on violation of human rights in India

1780. SHRI M. M. JACOB:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has made false representations to Amnesty International about the alleged violation of human rights in India; and

(b) if so, what has been the response of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Government is not aware of any formal representation made by Pakistan to Amnesty International about alleged violation of human rights in India.

(b) Does not arise.

SPOs in Punjab

1781. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Special Police Officers (SPOs) appointed in Punjab;

(b) what is the salary being paid to such officers; and

(c) what steps have been taken to provide incentives to youth to join this force and to equip them to fight terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) According to reports received 6683 posts of SPOs have been sanctioned by the Government of Punjab.

(b) The SPOs are paid at the rate of Rs. 30/ per day.

(c) Such of them as show promise motivation will be absorbed as Constables against future vacancies in the Punjab Police. The families of the SPOs killed by terrorists are eligible for grant of financial assistance to the tune of Rs. one lakh.